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WEEKS ACT CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

*By Russell Bozeman, Director
of Forest Protection and Forest
Information, MFC*

The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) is proud to have been partners with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in the celebration of the Weeks Act Centennial Anniversary. The celebration took place at the Jackson Convention Complex on May 19th, 2011. Professionals from many different natural resource organizations were in attendance along with other interested parties such as private industry and state legislators. The celebration included exhibitors, a panel discussion and an awards ceremony recognizing important partners. The main event centered on a presentation on the history of forests in the eastern U.S. and the Weeks Act by guest speaker Char Miller, a professor of environmental analysis from Pomona College. There was also a “conservation performance” by the Blues Rangers band. The MFC received awards for our efforts in

public outreach/wildfire prevention and for partnering in wildfire suppression.

The Weeks Act was the beginning of the acquisition and replanting of marginal lands to protect the headwaters of streams and rivers in the eastern United States. It was legislation that led to the creation of the national forests we have in Mississippi today. In addition to water quality management, the act also established cooperative state and federal partnerships to reduce the occurrence of catastrophic wildfires in our region.

The Weeks Act launched a century of conservation by providing clean water, restoring forests and reducing catastrophic wildfires. Land purchases allowed for protection of headwater sources of some of the most valuable navigable streams and rivers, mostly in the East. Now, one fifth of the entire nation’s clean drinking water flows from those lands.

Many national forests and experimental forests – established from lands that

were eroded or cut over – likely would not exist without the Weeks Act. About 20 million acres were acquired throughout the country. In the 26 eastern states, the acquisitions led to the creation of 52 National Forests.

The Weeks Act, in a way, also led to the creation of the USFS’s State and Private Forestry Division, which MFC partners with to provide many Mississippi private landowners, communities and cities funding for rural and urban forestry programs, wildfire protection programs and forest health programs. These programs have been instrumental in the management and protection our state’s valuable natural resources.



See page 6 for additional photos from the Celebration.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

NEW MFC COMMISSIONERS

Gov. Haley Barbour has appointed the following to the Mississippi Forestry Commission's Board of Commissioners:

- ◆ Neil Black of Ellisville, MS representing the At-large District.
- ◆ Eddie Howze of Greenwood, MS representing the 2nd Congressional District.
- ◆ Buck Hobbs of Byhalia, MS representing At-large.
- ◆ Joe Pettigrew of Kiln, MS representing the 4th Congressional District.

Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations August curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **10th of the month** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (in *Microsoft Word*) and photos to

lharris@mfc.state.ms.us

or mail to:
Lisa A. Harris

Mississippi Forestry Commission
822 SCR 115 S
Raleigh, MS 39153

480,000 ACRES OF 16TH SECTION SCHOOL TRUST LANDS ATFS CERTIFIED

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF), has announced that 480,000 acres of Mississippi's 16th Section school trust forestlands have been certified by the ATFS because of the sustainable management practices performed on these lands. The certification is the result of an innovative pilot project involving a partnership between the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), which manages the forested acres of 16th sections, and ATFS. This certification ensures that these lands are being properly and sustainably managed and that Mississippi will remain a strong competitor in the growing global need of certified wood.

"The Mississippi Forestry Commission is very excited that our state's 480,000 acres of school trust lands have been certified by the American Tree Farm System," said Charlie Morgan, Mississippi's state forester. "Our goal at MFC is to ensure that these lands, which contain one of our state's most important resources, are

sustainably managed in an environmentally sound manner. We also believe that the certification of these lands adds to the attractiveness of our state as a location for companies in need of certified wood, creating additional opportunities for Missis-



sippi's private landowners with ATFS certification and for Mississippi's loggers."

"This project marks the first time that a significant amount of public land has been certified by ATFS. Certification gives Mississippi new bragging rights—they are telling the world that they're managing their forestland in a way that has been internationally recognized as sustainable and credible," said Bob Simpson, senior vice president of forestry at AFF. "Certification assures that the forests behind the Tree Farm sign are being cared for in a man-

ner that's sustainable over the long term. Certified wood keeps the forest and paper industry strong, competitive and viable, not just in Mississippi, but globally," he said.

Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann applauded the certification. "This is a great example of state agencies working together to generate funding for education. We appreciate the Mississippi Forestry Commission's leadership in making Mississippi the largest acreage of public lands certified in the American Tree Farm System. This translates to future dollars for Mississippi's future—our schoolchildren."

For more information about the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the new certification, visit MFC's website www.mfc.ms.gov or the ATFS website at www.treefarmssystem.org.





My leaves are odd-pinnately compound, alternate and deciduous. The range in size from 7.0" to 15.0" long and are in leaflets of 7 to 13 leaves. Their margin is entire with a pointed or rounded apex. The base is unequally wedge-shaped. My leaves are oblong to obovate in shape and dark green above and pale green below. Their surface is lustrous above and smooth below.

My twigs are stout and light brown to orangish brown in color. Their surface is smooth with crescent-shaped leaf scars and bundle scars.

My buds are 0.25" long, conical in shape and purplish in color.

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for June 2011 was the Sugarberry (Celtis laevigata Willd.) Check out page 163 in the Mississippi Trees book.



Sugarberry leaves and fruit

TREE KNOWLEDGE - WHO AM I?

My fruit is in a drupe which is dry and smooth. My fruit is nearly spherical and creamy white in color.

My flower is polygamous in long, narrow axillary pubescent panicles near the ends of the branches on slender pubescent stalks. My flower have five yellowish green petals and are 0.25" long.

My bark is gray to grayish brown, thin, smooth with longitudinal striations and horizontal lenticles.

I form a single stem and at maturely grow to be 25.0' to 30.0'. I am tolerance to shade and have a low tolerances to drought and fire.

I am most abundant on permanently wet sites, such as swamps and bogs. I am occasionally found with other bottomland species. I prefer a fine to coarse soil texture with a soil pH of 5.6 to 6.5.

I range all over the eastern United States. In Mississippi, I am primarily found in the southeastern quarter of

the State and other permanently we/moist sites.

My fruit is not toxic to birds or animals and is consumed by many kinds of wildlife, such as bobwhite, pheasant, grouse and rabbit, especially in the winter when other food is scarce. My fruit has a moderate food value for large animals and terrestrial birds.

I have no value as wildlife cover and in the timber industry.

I am poisonous. All parts, in all seasons if you come in contact with the my sap. Symptoms of poisoning are severe skin redness, itching, swelling and blisters following direct or indirect contact. The toxic substance is Urushiol.

I am used occasionally in the treatment of fevers, ague, ulcerated bladder, asthma and wasting diseases. I am also used as a was to treat foul ulcers, through I am a extremely poisonous plant.

Who Am I?



MISSISSIPPI PRESCRIBE BURNING SHORT COURSE

Will be held between October 3-5, 2011 at Jones County Jr. College in Ellisville, Mississippi.

Contact Dixie Cartwright at MSU/ Academic Outreach & Continuing Education at (662)325-9191 or e-mail: ccartwright@aoce.msstate.edu for more information. Check out this link: <http://www.ce.msstate.edu/ptd/forestdescr.html#prescribed> requirements and fees.

August's Birthdays



Louis Anderson -3
William Jefferson -4
James Palmer -4
James Edwards -5
Alan Robinson -5
Billy Dorsey -6
Kevin Saul -8
Douglas Buchanan -9
Ricky Hartness -9
Howard Ornsbey -9
Kenneth Mcnease -10
Myra Williams -10
Larry Boone -12
Judy Deare -12
Paul Greenough -13
Thomas Gunn -13
Charles Belk -14
Lisa Harris -14
Randall Brooks -15
Johnny Hobson -15
Jeff Yelverton -16
Kenneth Berryman -17
Randy Catt -1
Nicholas Johnson -1
Stephen Mason -1
Paul Tadlock -18
Charles Compliment -20
Grady Abel -21
James Parker -21
Kenneth Cline -22
Bruce Frasier -22
Ronald Stafford -22
Nathan Thornton -22
Aubrey Anderson -23
Marvin Hogue -23
Dennis Dauterive -24
Johnny Keys -24
Martin Little -25
Dustin Barnett -26
Charles Eidson -27
Scott Miles -27
Wilfred Wesley -27
Daniel Crump -28
Marcus Gilbert -30
Allen Stroud -30
Travis Widener -30
Wesley Crum -31





- ☺ Jordi P. Card, Forest Ranger, Lowndes County, ECD.
- ☺ James Palmer, Service Forester, Scott County, SCD.
- ☺ William Gowen, Forest Ranger, Marion County, SWD.
- ☺ Marvin Houge, Forest Ranger, Holmes County, NWD.
- ☺ Jaret Prestage, Forestry Technician, Yalobusha County, NWD.



Ms Louise Walker, retired County Clerk from Clarke County, died at her home in VA from lung cancer complications. She was brought back to Quitman, MS for burial.



Gone Fishin'

- ☺ Peggy Hosey, Admin. Assistant, Bay Spring District Office, SCD.
- ☺ Roosevelt Galloway, Forest Ranger, Marshall County, NED

HOPPER NAMED MSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE DEAN

From Voice of Forestry Online, Mississippi Forestry Association, August 2011 Issue.

The dean of Mississippi State University's College of Forest Resources and director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center will take on an expanded leadership role.

Effective Aug. 19 and pending formal approval by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, George M. Hopper, pictured below right, will also serve as the dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES).

Hopper has served as interim CALS dean and interim MAFES director since the administration of the four units was merged last July. A faculty-led Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations recommended

merging the two colleges, but MSU administration decided to retain the colleges and merge only their administration.

"Forestry and agriculture are the largest and most important industries in our state's economy, accounting for about one-third of all jobs in the state and nearly 25 percent of all income," said Gregory Bohach, vice president of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. "We are fortunate to have someone with Dr. Hopper's broad educational background and professional experience to lead these four units within the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine."

Hopper has served as dean of MSU's College of Forest Resources for six years. Before becoming dean, he spent 11 years as head of the department of forestry, wildlife and fisheries at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

In addition to earning bachelor's and master's degrees from MSU, Hopper holds a doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. A Vicksburg native, Hopper is a Society of American Foresters Fellow and a past president of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs.



**George M. Hopper, Dean
MSU College of Forest
Resources and Director of
Forest and Wildlife Research
Center**

2011 MFA ANNUAL MEETING

"Growing the Next Generation" People, Products, Trees

Make plans now to attend the 2011 MFA Annual Meeting set for Oct. 19-21 at the Hilton Jackson. Meeting registration will be mailed later this month.

For details visit www.msforestry.net and click on the Growing the Next Generation logo.

BENEFIT ENROLLMENT SCHEDULE

By Jan Baker, Personnel Officer

If you are planning to make changes to your benefit options, please be sure to bring the social security number and birth date with you for any dependents you are planning to cover.

This will be your opportunity to meet with the representatives of each of our supplemental benefit

plans. Please do not hesitate to sit down with any one of them, they will be more than happy to take all the time needed to answer your questions/concerns or advise of any changes to existing coverage options.

All sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. except the Capital District which begins at 1:30 p.m. Employees may attend any session they desire. For those employ-

ees attending sessions outside of their normal assigned work area, please make every attempt to get there as early as possible. Once we have seen all the employees assigned to the specific location site, we will be leaving.

For additional information, contact Jan Baker at (601) 359-2811 or jbaker@mfc.state.ms.us.

BENEFITS ENROLLMENT SCHEDULE 2012*

Location	Date	Time
South Central (Bay Springs)	Tuesday, September 27, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Southeast (Wiggins)	Wednesday, September 28, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Southwest (Brookhaven)	Thursday, September 29, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
State Office	Monday, October 3, 2011	9:00 a.m. to Noon
Capital (Pearl)	Monday, October 3, 2011	1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Northwest (Elliott)	Tuesday, October 4, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Northeast (Tupelo)	Wednesday, October 5, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
East Central (Philadelphia)	Thursday, October 6, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

* Plan Year (January 1 to December 31, 2012)



Policies & Procedures

By Russell D. Jones, I.T. Director, MFC.

Several new policy updates have been added to the Memorandums and Policy page on our web site. To get to our Memorandums and Policy page navigate to our main web-site, Click "Employee Section". Login via the MFC Applications and Employ-

ee Page, and click the Interoffice Memorandums link at the top.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these policy updates.

- Public Lands Harvest Size Guidelines (06/01/2011)
- Performance Bond Limits (06/01/2011)
- Network usage Policy (07/15/2011)

- New FAR policy in the Forest Management Policy Manual. (07/27/2011)
- Specifications for Forestry Work (08/02/2011)
- FRDP Policy Update (08/04/2011)

As always, the policies are considered effective immediately



Moving On

- * Ricky J. Smith, Forest Ranger, SWD
- * Jonathan E. Holifield, Forestry Technician, ECD.
- * Gabriel C. Baker, Forest Ranger, SED.
- * Benecia Dawn Barkley-Spellins, Emergency Telecommunicator II, NED
- * Charles E. Boler, Forest Ranger, NWD
- * James Parker, Forest Ranger, Clarke County, SCD
- * Mark Miller, Forester, Newton County, SCD
- * Arthur Hinton, Forest Ranger, Perry County, SED
- * Robert McGivney, Forest Ranger, Attala County, ECD
- * Brett Fussell, Forestry Technician, Choctaw County, ECD
- * Matthew Greet, Forest Ranger, Caliborne County, CD
- * John Eakes, Forest Ranger, Newton County, SCD
- * Thomas Harris, Forest Ranger, SWD
- * Michael Lee, Emergency Telecommunicator, Stone County, SED.
- * Jonathan David McKelown, Forest Ranger, SED.
- * Tommy Thornton, Emergency Telecommunicator, Bay Spring District Office, SCD

WEEKS ACT CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY



Photos by
Steve Bingham
/RB/USDAFS



Safety First . . .

FORECASTED HIGH TEMPS IN MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service want to remind residents there are steps you can take to help beat the heat. ***High temperatures in many parts of the state are forecasted to be near 100 degrees with a heat index or real feel of 110-120 degrees around the state.***

The NWS also wants to remind everyone about the “beat the heat, check the backseat” campaign. In the past dozen years, 450 children have died nationwide due to hyperthermia after being left in or gaining access to cars. NEVER leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle, not even for a minute. Remember: Beat the heat, check the backseat.

“High temperatures can be just as dangerous as traditional severe weather for some of our residents,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “While Mississippians are used to hot summers, we ask everyone to take extra precautions and keep a close eye on family, friends and neighbors.”

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.

- Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.
- Consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls and other community facilities.
- Drink plenty of water. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney or liver disease; are on fluid-restricted diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.
- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages.
- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat and take frequent breaks.

SIGNS OF HEAT EXHAUSTION:

- Heavy sweating but skin may be cool, pale or flushed.
- Weak pulse.
- Normal body temperature is possible, but temperature will likely rise.
- Fainting or dizziness, nausea, vomiting, exhaustion and headaches are possible.

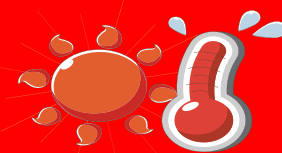
SIGNS OF HEAT STROKE; CALL 9-1-1 IF SOMEONE HAS THESE SYMPTOMS:

- High body temperature (105+).
- Hot, red, dry skin.
- Rapid, weak pulse and rapid shallow breathing.
- Victim will probably not sweat unless victim was sweating from recent strenuous activity.
- Possible unconsciousness.

In a normal year, approximately 175 Americans die from extreme heat. Young children, senior citizens, and those who are sick or overweight are more likely to become victims.

For more information please contact MEMA External Affairs by calling 866-920-6362 or visit us online at

www.msema.org. To



The thermometer is approaching or over 100 degrees in many cities across the country and humidity levels are very high. As a result, heat-related illnesses are a very real threat to you, your family, and your coworkers. Details are provided here and additional resources are as follows:

- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has provided this Extreme Heat Media Toolkit.
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has developed this guidance to prevent heat illness in outdoor workers.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reminds everyone to be Sunwise and protect against the hazards of excessive ultraviolet radiation.

check out the latest local forecast from the National Weather Service go to www.srh.noaa.gov and click on your area.

First Time, Every Time